

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 526

By Hood

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Dr. R. Eugene Smith for laudable service to the people of Tennessee as the Interim President of Middle Tennessee State University and former Vice President for Business and Finance at the University of Memphis.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as educators, administrators and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy person is Dr. R. Eugene Smith, who, since October 1, 2000, has served laudably as Interim President of Middle Tennessee State University; prior to that appointment he served with distinction for 37 years as Internal Auditor, Budget Director, Business Manager, Adjunct Professor in the College of Education and, since 1971, as the Vice President for Business and Finance at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was born February 25, 1935 and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Middle Tennessee State University in 1957, his Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1966, attended the College of Business Management Institute at the University of Nebraska in Omaha in 1968, and earned his

Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Mississippi in 1979; prior to his academic career he worked in the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury from 1957-63, rising through the ranks to become Director of State Audits; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is a Certified Government Financial Manager and is a highly sought-after higher education consultant, author and speaker; he is a former board member and president of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) and the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers (SACUBO); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is a current member of the University of Memphis Foundation Finance Committee and is a trustee of the Herbert Herff Trust; his many civic and community activities include membership in the Memphis Urban League, the Mid-South Fair Board of Directors, the Mid-South Minority Business Council and the Mid-South Public Communications Foundation Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith's professional associations include membership in Alpha Kappa Psi, Kappa Delta Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Delta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi; he is the author and co-author of numerous publications; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has served on various committees for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Tennessee Board of Regents; he was recognized as the NACUBO Distinguished Business Officer in 1994, Middle Tennessee State University's Distinguished Alumni in 1997, the University of Memphis Educator of the Year in 1998 and the SACUBO Distinguished Business Officer for 2001; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is most grateful for the love and companionship that he shares with his wife, the former Anne Clement of Paris; they are the proud parents of Danny and David Smith and Genie Anne Smith Williams and the grandparents of October and Sedonia; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. R. Eugene Smith for his dedication to excellence in higher education and to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. R. Eugene Smith for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee as Interim President of Middle Tennessee State University and as Vice President for Business and Finance of the University of Memphis, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.